# SHOOTING REVIEW SUMMARY

#### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## SHOOTING INCIDENT EVALUATION

UNIT:

Special Enforcement Bureau

DATE:

April 18, 2001

TIME:

2120 hours

LOCATION:

Artesia Boulevard # Bellflower

URN#:

001-09217-1335-052

IAB#:

SH 2033946

NATURE OF

INCIDENT:

Sergeant Barth and Deputies and Rector of the

Special Enforcement Bureau shot Suspect Donald Smith

during a hostage rescue of kidnap Victim

Suspect Smith was armed with a knife and refused multiple

orders to release the victim and drop the knife.

COMPLETED BY: Sergeant Henry J. Reyes

Internal Affairs Bureau

DATE: September 07, 2001

# Los A les County Sheriff's Dep nent Officer Involved Shooting

1 of 4 Bureau/Station/Facility: Report Date: Admin. Invest.? Special Enforcement Bureau April 19, 2001 Incident Information LIRN April 18, 2001 2120 hrs 001-09217-1335-052 Nature of Incident: Suspect Smith barricaded himself along with Victim City or Station: Bellflower who he had kidnapped and who was being held at knife Artesia Blvd., Bellflower point. The suspect was shot and killed during a rescue operation of the victim by members of the Special Enforcement Bureau. Incident Type (circle one or more): Location Type (circle one or more): Lighting (circle only one): Initiated by (circle only one): Arrest Warrant Darkness Accidental Backyard Call Daylight Armed Person Beach Observation Other Eleeing Suspect One Person Unit Businesa Street Lights Foot Pursuit Freeway Other Gun Take Away Search Warrant Industrial Moving Vehicle Weather (circle only one): Park Two Person Unit Sniper/Ambush Parking Lot Clear Startle Cloudy Residence Prior Activity (circle only one): Struggle Involved Fog Rural Datective Traffic Stop Rain School Inmate Transport Unarmed Person Street Other Unintentional Other: Routine Patrol Distance: Vehicle Pursuit 10-15 ft Warrant Service Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy Aero Unit? Canine Unit? Employee Witnesses ACCUMULATION OF THE PARTY OF ShiftType (circle only one): First Name ShiftTime (circle only one): Empla Nathan (PM) Day Regular Overtime Off Duty Daniel Last Name First Name ShiftTime (circle only one): ShiftType (circle only one) Employ Wilkerson Garv (PM) Regular Overtime Off Duty EM Day ShiftType (circle only one): ShiftTime (circle only one): Last Name First Name M.I. Employ Michael Regular Overtime Off Duty Sambolich D EM PM Non-Employee Witnesses First Name Last Name M.I. Street Address City Zip Code Work Ph First Name Last Name M.I. Street Address Zip Code Work Ph City Home Ph Last Name First Name M.I. Street Address City Zip Code Work Ph Home Ph Supervisors (circle one or more): Employee # First Name Last Name Witness to shooting On Duty Involved in shooting Walker Scott Present during shooting Last Name First Name (circle one or more): Employee # On Duty Witness to shooting Present during shooting involved in shooting : Watch Sergeant First Name Last Name Watch Commander Last Name First Name M.L Employee # Burnum Michael

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SH#	2033	946	

Arrival Date APF	RIL 18, 2001 Arrival Time	2300	Date Submitted Sept. 7, 2001	Date of Recommendation		
Employee #	Last Name Mannis		First Nam Kar	yn	M.I	J
Employee #	Last Name Reyes	*	First Nam Hel	nry	M.I	J
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Meth	od					Type	of Injur	v		Body	Par	rt Injured
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### FORCE APPLIED (one code per block)

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
E#1	S#1	FR	HK	9	Υ	Υ	GS	CH
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	Certified with Weapon Used	Patrol Certification?	Certification Unit	Prior Shootings?	Prior Shootings:
	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name		First Name	M.L.
	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name		First Name	M.L.
E_2	Employee #	Last Name Rector		First Name Rick	M.I.
	Sex: Race: W	Rank DS/B-1	Unit Assignment: SEB	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc Black Tea	:.): im
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	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name		First Name	M.I.
	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name		First Name	M.J.
E_3	Employee #	Last Name		First Name	M.I.
	Sex: Race: W	Rank DS/B-1	Unit Assignment: SEB	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc. Black Tea	
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	Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name		First Name	M.I.



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	AKA Last Name			First Name			M.I.
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	WORK PROM						
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INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY USE OF DEADLY FORCE DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING 001-09217-1335-052 SH 2033946

On Wednesday, April 18, 2001, Sergeants Henry Reyes and Elier Morejon and Lieutenant Karyn Mannis, of the Internal Affairs Bureau, responded to Artesia Boulevard, Bellflower, regarding an Officer Involved Shooting Incident. Upon our arrival we were briefed by Lieutenant Thomas Martin of the Homicide Bureau. Captain Robert Osborne, Lakewood Station Commander and Lieutenant Ralph Webb of Risk Management Bureau and members of Training Bureau were also present.

#### INVOLVED PERSONNEL

Rector, Rick
Barth, Phillip C.

Deputy # Special Enforcement Bureau
Special Enforcement Bureau
Special Enforcement Bureau
Special Enforcement Bureau

#### SUSPECT:

Smith, Donald MW/34, D.O.B. 01-01-67

At the time of the incident Suspect Smith

See criminal history included in Homicide

Book, pages 110 through 121...

#### WITNESSES:

FW/35 FW/36

Walker, Scott Sergeant, Special Enforcement Bureau Nathan, Daniel Deputy, Special Enforcement Bureau

Wilkerson, Gary Deputy, Emergency Services Detail/Special Enforcement Bureau

Sambolich, Michael, Emergency Services Detail/Special Enforcement Bureau

#### INVOLVED EMPLOYEES STATEMENTS:

Deputy said he was at home when he received a telephone call requesting that he respond to the incident in Bellflower. When he arrived at the scene, he met with Deputy Nathan and Sergeant Scott Walker who briefed him on the incident. He was aware the suspect was holding a hostage inside a mobile home park and there was some indication the suspect was armed with a handgun or shotgun. He then met with the crisis entry team and reconfigured the team.





#### Deputy Interview contd.

He began formulating a tactical plan, should entry become necessary. He moved the team closer to the location, in the event a crisis entry became necessary. He received information via Sheriff's radio the suspect had been seen in the window of the location holding a knife at the victim's throat. A plan was devised to divert the suspect's attention by deploying a light and sound device (flash bang) at the front door, in hopes the suspect would show himself in the window and a sniper assault opportunity might occur. The tactic was deployed but the suspect showed himself in the window holding the victim as a human shield.

IAB Note: Two shell casings from Deputy weapon were located; one at the top of the bed and one on the bedroom floor. One of the rounds struck the suspect in the abdomen; the other round did not strike the suspect and was not located.

Deputy Rick Rector said he was assigned to the duty team, and was in the Wayside area when he heard a radio broadcast of a hostage situation in the Lakewood area and responded. When he arrived at the location, he dressed and immediately contacted members of the crisis entry team. He heard other personnel advise over the radio that the suspect was seen in the window of the location holding the victim at knife point. Sergeant Walker determined that crisis entry should be made. The front door to the location was locked and forced entry was made. He was the third person to make entry into the location. He saw the suspect standing in the living room area holding the victim with his left arm around her neck, in a choke hold. The suspect held a knife to the victim's head. The suspect stated that he was going to kill the victim. Several orders were given to the suspect to drop the knife. The suspect refused to comply. The suspect pulled the victim backwards toward a bedroom. Several additional orders to release the victim were given. He believed the suspect was going to kill the victim. He heard gunshots and saw the suspect fall backwards onto the bed.





#### Deputy Rick Rector's Interview cont'd.

The suspect continued to hold onto the victim and his knife was at her head. The suspect then moved the knife down from the victim's head toward her abdominal area and appeared to be stabbing her. He fired one shot at the suspect's neck area. He heard several other gunshots and saw the victim being pulled away from the suspect.

IAB Note: The shell casing from Deputy Rector's weapon was located at the top of the bed. The round struck the suspect in the neck.

Sergeant Phillip Barth said he heard radio traffic of a hostage situation in Bellflower and responded from home, after notifying the Special Enforcement Bureau desk. At the location he was briefed by Sergeant Walker. Sergeant Walker told him that a female had been stabbed and was being held hostage. He was also told the victim had been kidnaped from Baldwin Park and there had been a vehicle pursuit. He saw blood stains on the suspect's vehicle and was told that the suspect had been seen inside the location holding a knife to the victim's throat. A plan was devised for a sniper to shoot the suspect should the suspect separate himself from the victim. Unfortunately the sniper was never able to get a clean shot at the suspect. A light and sound devise (flash bang) was deployed at the front door of the location as a diversionary tactic. Forced entry was made into the location to rescue the victim. He saw the suspect holding the victim with a knife at her throat. The suspect pulled the victim backwards into a bedroom. He repeatedly yelled at the suspect to drop the knife and to give up. The suspect yelled something back at them as if he was crazy. He heard a shot and simultaneously saw the suspect move the knife from the victim's neck and begin to jab it into the victim's chest. He heard another shot and simultaneously saw the victim move off of the suspect. The suspect continued to jab the knife toward the victim and he fired one shot at the suspect's abdominal area. As the suspect fell backwards onto the bed, he heard another shot and saw another team member pull the victim to safety.

IAB Note: The shell casing from Sergeant Barth's weapon was located on the bedroom floor. The round struck the suspect in the abdomen.

#### WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

Witness said she lent her car to the suspect and met him earlier in the day so he could return the car. They went out for a drink and the suspect told her that he needed to borrow her car for one additional day. He invited her to go with him to Bellflower but she told she did not want to go. The suspect began to drive her home and as they approached her mother's street, they saw two Baldwin Park Police cars. The suspect drove past her mother's street and the police cars pulled in behind them with their red lights activated in an attempt to stop them. The suspect did not stop for the police and instead accelerated away. She pulled the keys out of the vehicle's ignition and pulled on the emergency brake causing the car to stop. The suspect grabbed his knife and stabbed himself in the stomach area. The suspect then reached for the keys which she had thrown on the floorboard. As the police officers approached, the suspect grabbed her and moved the knife toward her, as if he was going to stab her. The suspect's actions caused the police to back away. The suspect started the





#### Witness Interview contd.

car and drove away with the police in pursuit. The suspect was momentarily distracted and she was able to get his knife and throw the knife out the window. The suspect refused to stop so she pulled a knife on him and attempted to get him to stop. The suspect grabbed her knife by the blade, cutting his hand as he pulled it away from her. The suspect drove onto the freeway refusing to stop. The suspect began to throw numerous items out of the car, including a car jack, and said he was cleaning the car out for her. The suspect told her that he wouldn't be taken by the police. The suspect pulled his blood-soaked shirt off and showed her his needle tracked arms.

The suspect told her that his new girlfriend had gotten him hooked on dope. He told her that he had been clean for two days, was going to tie up some loose ends, and was going to turn himself into his He told her that he just needed more time to think. The suspect drove to the trailer park and kept the knife on her the whole time. When the car stopped the suspect told her, 'don't run" and held onto to her by the back of her sweatshirt. When they entered the house, he locked the door and told her, "The please don't make me hurt you." She told him, "You don't have to hurt me, I'm not going to run." The suspect closed all the windows and said "stay away from me or I'll hurt her." She said that during the entire incident she was not in fear for her safety from the suspect. Her only fear was that the police would push the suspect into harming her. Even when the suspect held the knife to her she did not think he would harm her. When the police entered the house, the suspect pulled her toward a bedroom. He kept the knife on her during this time. She screamed at the suspect, "Please don't do this." The suspect tripped and they both fell backwards. The suspect fell on the bed and she fell on the suspect and then to the side. She saw the police shoot the suspect once in the neck and then another police officer got on top of the suspect and shot him two more times in the chest area. She said the suspect wasn't holding the knife any more and there was no reason to shoot him the second time. She added that she was pulled away by one of the officers who cursed, "Get her the fuck out of here."

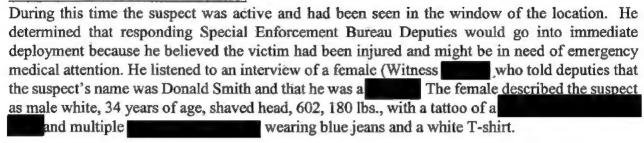
Witness said she is a friend of the suspect who is "sweet on her." Earlier in the day the suspect had given her a ride to the trailer park so that she could visit some friends. The suspect had been drinking but was not using drugs. She returned to the trailer park and saw a lot of police around the park. She did not see the suspect return to the trailer park and did not know the suspect was involved in an incident with the police.

Witness Sergeant Scott Walker said he was returning from training when he heard radio traffic of a kidnaped victim and vehicle pursuit which had terminated in Lakewood's area. Additional information revealed that the incident had started in Baldwin Park and that during the incident the suspect had made the comment that he wasn't going to go back to prison. He also heard information that the victim had been stabbed and dragged into a trailer at the trailer park. As part of the primary duty team, he responded to the location. When he arrived at the scene, he briefly talked to the sergeant at the command post. He learned that the victim might be the suspect's While he waited for additional deputies from the Special Weapons Team, he heard someone say the suspect was armed with a shotgun and a knife.





#### Witness Walker's interview contd.



When he arrived at the house, he saw Lakewood deputies, California Highway Patrol and Baldwin Park Officers containing the location. He spoke with a Sergeant from the California Highway Patrol who confirmed that one of his officers had seen the suspect drag a bloody victim into the house. The sergeant also told him that the suspect was armed with a shotgun and a knife. He scouted the area and evacuated two apartments that provided a high vantage point of the house below. He spoke to another sergeant who told him that prior to his arrival, numerous announcements over the public address system had been made, asking the suspect to surrender. The suspect had refused to surrender and had made obscene gestures at them with his finger. He received information that suspect had thrown a bloody shirt out of the window which caused him to believe that the victim was seriously injured. He repeatedly received information that the suspect was armed with a shotgun and a knife.

He requested the Crisis Negotiation Team make contact with the suspect as soon as possible. He also received information from the command post that the suspect's family reported they were missing two handguns, forty and forty-five calibers. Based on the information he received, he believed that the victim was seriously injured and might be bleeding to death. He formulated a plan to initiate a sniper assault and make a crisis entry of the location to rescue the injured victim. He advised Captain Heal and Lieutenant Barnum of his plan to rescue the hostage. Both the captain and lieutenant concurred with his plan and directed him to rescue the injured hostage as soon as possible. He was also directed that if the opportunity arose, where he could create the separation and get a view of the suspect and if the suspect was not going to surrender he was to shoot the suspect and make a crisis entry to rescue the hostage. He was advised that the crisis negotiators were not ready to make a telephone call to the suspect and that he was not to wait for them. He advised his team of the plan to rescue the hostage.

He put his plan into action as Deputy Nathan deployed a "Flash bang" device toward the front door of the house, announcements were made on the public address system asking the suspect to come out and surrender. The suspect appeared in the window holding the victim with a knife at her throat. The sniper was not able to get a clear shot at the suspect so he advised the entry team to make a crisis entry. He broke out a window to the location and yelled out "Sheriff's Department, get down" several times. The blinds to the window obstructed his view of the interior of the location. He saw the entry team enter the location and repositioned himself as the fifth man on the entry team. As he stepped inside the door, he saw the four deputies in front of him moving toward a bedroom. He heard three to five shots and saw the victim among the group of deputies. He yelled at the deputies to get the hostage out. The hostage was lead from the location by an Emergency Services Deputy





#### Witness Walker's interview contd.

to safety. When he entered the bedroom, he saw the suspect lying on the bed, face up. He saw several gunshots to the suspect's body and a knife lying near his right hand. Once the area was clear, he directed the paramedics to give immediate emergency medical care to the suspect.

Deputy Daniel Nathan said responded to the location from the Special Enforcement Bureau and was briefed by Sergeant Walker at the command post. He and Sergeant Walker redeployed personnel and scouted the hostage location. He and Sergeant Walker developed a tactical plan to make entry into the location. Prior to his arrival, he was told that announcements were made via a public address system, asking the suspect to surrender. Announcements were again made by perimeter personnel just prior to entry being made into the location, asking the suspect to surrender. Entry into the location was eventually made. He is uncertain if he was fourth, fifth or sixth person through the door. He heard gunfire coming from the back bedroom, but did not witness the shooting. The hostage was removed from the location.

Deputy Gary Wilkerson said he responded to the location from the Special Enforcement Bureau. When he arrived at the location, he was briefed by Sergeant Scott Walker. Sergeant Walker told him that the suspect had been pursued by the California Highway Patrol and had barricaded himself in a small house, in the trailer park and was holding a female hostage. A plan was developed to rescue the hostage. The suspect had been seen several times in the window of the location holding a knife to the victim's throat. The plan called for deployment of a light and sound device (flash bang) at the front door of the location. He heard announcements made by Deputy Nathan asking the suspect to surrender just prior to the entry being made. The suspect again appeared in the window holding the victim as a shield. Entry was made into the location. He followed several members of the entry team into the livingroom and heard someone yell "get down, get down, drop the knife, let her go." He moved into the kitchen area and heard two or three gunshots. The next thing he heard was someone saying, "hostage coming out, hostage coming out." He saw a deputy moving a female out of the location. He took control of the female and escorted her from the location along with his partner Deputy Sambolich. As he escorted from the location, stated, "I'm glad you helped me, I thought he was going to kill me." He reentered the location and saw the suspect lying on the bed with several gunshots to his chest. He and Sambolich administered medical aid.

Deputy David Sambolich said he responded to the location along with his partner Deputy Wilkerson. When they arrived at the command post he was told that the hostage had been stabbed and was severely injured. He was assigned to a position on the entry team. A plan was developed to rescue the hostage and his job was to break and rake a window so that another deputy could provide security for the entry team. He heard several announcements being made, asking the suspect to surrender. A light and sound device (flash bang) was deployed and entry was made into the house. He heard two or three gunshots and then saw the victim coming out of the location. He was at the door of the location and did not see the shooting. He assisted the victim away from the location and returned to render medical aid for the injured suspect. He added that Deputy Wilkerson accompanied the suspect to the hospital.





#### SUSPECT'S STATEMENTS:

The suspect died so no statements were obtained.

#### **INJURIES:**

Suspect Smith sustained two gunshot wounds to his abdomen and one gunshot wound to his neck. He was transported to Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 2201 hours. See Homicide Book for detailed medical examiners' report, page 231.

#### PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

Four 9 mm shell casings, a folding knife and a handwritten note authored by Suspect Smith were recovered at the shooting scene. To review a detailed report of this evidence refer to Homicide Book, page 80.

#### INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS:

The location received minor damage to the front door and north facing window. Members of the Civil Litigation Unit were present and all damage was documented.

#### WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

All three deputies fired departmentally issued H&K MP5, 9MM sub machine gun.

#### WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECTS:

Two knives, see Homicide Book for complete description, pages 14 and 81.

#### PROPERTY DAMAGE:

Broken window and door frame to location.

#### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR:

Homicide Detectives Mike Bumcrot and Rick Green.

#### LIGHTING OR WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Ceiling light on in bedroom.

Clear and cool night.